

Infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com

Update

Friday, January 7, 2011

Be sure to check out www.livefreeorfry.org and the Stop Northern Pass Face Book Page. The Powerline Education Fund is now taking donations to help us all work together to stop Northern Pass. Go to www.livefreeorfry.org for more information.

Thank you to **Atta Girl Records** in Thornton for their generous donation of Compact Discs for the cause. Atta Girl Records has produced many CD's including music for the Tsunami Relief Project and their recent Green Measures.

Upcoming Presentation: Alex Lee is scheduled to present "Is Big Hydro Green?" on Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 7:00pm at the Monadnock Congregational Church Vestry in Colebrook. Alex's presentation is entertaining, informative, and timely, and it stimulated a vigorous discussion in Franconia last month. All are invited to attend this free program and learn more about Hydro Quebec and important issues surrounding the Northern Pass.

Lancaster Information Meeting last night, Thursday, January 6, 2011 at the Town Hall a success.

Approximately 70 people were in attendance last night at the Lancaster Town Hall on Main Street to listen to information on the Northern Pass Project. Sanctioned by the Selectmen of Lancaster, since a PSNH info meeting had not been scheduled in that town, the meeting brought out residents of Colebrook and surrounding towns to hear the pros and cons of the project. The Concerned Citizens had worked closely with Town Manager, Ed Samson, in setting up the meeting.

Peter Riviere, a long time resident of Lancaster, was the Facilitator. Peter introduced - the line-up of speakers and provided background information to attendees.

Rick Johnsen from the Power Line Education Fund brought maps of the route for the proposed project and a power point presentation of stock photos and images of what the 85 to 135 foot towers will look like.

David Van Houten, from the Coos Community Benefits Project, reviewed the key points that residents and others needed to consider as they analyzed its benefits to them individually and to their community. He emphasized that we will continue to use electricity and needed to consider the best way we can generate and pay for it.

Yvonne Nanasi, North Country Field Service Representative from the NH Conservation Alliance spoke about the importance of identifying historical properties and getting them listed so that if and when the project moves forward, possible mitigation concerns can be addressed.

Background on the tax benefits to the town were reviewed by Lancaster Town Manager, Ed Samson, who explored the potential benefits to the town. Samson iterated that much of this is uncertain and there are no predictions stating “We’ll see it when it happens.”

Peter Powell from Peter Powell Real Estate reviewed the research on the impact of power lines and other environmental factors on property values, sales etc. It explained that most of the research underscores the intuitive conclusion that it will have a negative impact on values. He explained that with real estate it is important to start with base values. Base values in the North Country which is pristine and beautiful would be much higher than in a larger community or area where there were already existing environmental scars. Hence the loss will be greater. Powell also emphasized that although residents and others may believe that they are not impacted by the power line if it’s not in their sight or near their property, this must be explored in the context of community and how what happens to our neighbors in terms of loss of property values, potential sales and income, affects the entire community. An example would be if one landowner’s property is devalued by the power line, then other tax payers must pick up the slack and make up the difference. If jobs or land sales plummet, then suppliers of materials and services in that community will suffer by that loss as well.

Legal and process issues were discussed by Bob Baker who lives in Columbia and has a law firm in Connecticut and is a member of the bar in NH. Bob explained that he is new to NH law but that there are some commonalities and that he has been learning more about these issues intensely in the past few months. Bob explained the permitting process and the concerns of “takings” and eminent domain issues in NH. He also explored how Northern Pass has already approached landowners with agreements of entry to go onto their land and study it’s suitability for the Project. He cautioned that landowners needed to be aware that these agreements were not in the best interests of landowners, but needed to underline the fact, that each circumstance is different and that the best guarantee of one’s rights was to have a lawyer representing one’s interests.

Representative Bill Remick spoke briefly about the importance of contacting various agencies and one’s government representatives to have your voice heard.

There was also a time for questions with many individuals staying after the meeting to talk to the presenters.

News and Other Developments

It looks like Massachusettes can't wait for Hydro Power to flow. Read this article in MetroWest Daily News by David Riley at <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x338105859/Hydroelectric-power-could-be-key-to-state-cutting-gas-emissions>

Posted on the Stop the Northern Pass Face Book page by Elaine Tibbetts from the Main Public Broadcasting Web Site a posting and broadcast **titled Northern Pass Promises Renewable Power, But at What Cost** – in case you missed it – at <http://www.mpbn.net/Home/tabid/36/ctl/ViewItem/mid/3478/ItemId/14725/Default.aspx> It's a bit over 6 minutes. Check it out.

Bury the Northern Pass is looking for a Franconia registered voter to work on a petition for the town warrant opposing the Northern Pass Project. . If you are interested in doing that please contact burynorthernpass@gmail.com . Here's what they sent out We have no record that anyone from Franconia has placed an article concerning the Northern Pass on the town warrant. If you can do so or can find someone else who can, please proceed asap and let us know. This is important to the argument that many have made in DOE and other petitions about the impact of high voltage lines on real estate values and tourism. In the heart of the White Mountains, Franconia should not look apathetic or complacent about it.

This is a sample warrant being used by many towns. It may, of course, be modified as the filer wishes:

To see if the Town will vote to register and disseminate to all concerned its objection, opposition and commitment to stop the construction of any portion of the 1200 Megawatt High Voltage Direct Current Transmission Line in the Town of _____ as presently proposed by Northeast Utilities, NStar and Hydro-Quebec since such a huge scar constructed and erected through and above the Town's treasured residential and scenic private properties will cause inestimable damage to the orderly economic development of the Town, its economy, and the health and wellbeing of its residents; or to take any other action relative thereto. Attached are general instructions on placing an article on the warrant. Deadlines are imminent!

For a simple template contact infonorthcountrypowerline@gmail.com .

NH Lakes and Mountains article from the Littleton Courier by Kayti Burt from December 16th titled Organized oppositions begins campaign against Northern Pass power line at <http://www.newhampshirlakesandmountains.com/Articles-c-2010-12-17-152790.113119-Organized-oppositions-begins-campaign-against-Northern-Pass-power-line.html>

Check out CEDS (Community and Environmental Defense Services) website at <http://www.ceds.org/tl.html> which is working towards getting the benefits of

transmission lines without the negative impacts. There is updated information on the health impacts of EMF's (Electro Magnetic Fields) that you may find interesting. There is also information on the Need for New Transmission Lines, FERC Backstop Authority, and Transmission Line Basics. Under Health Impacts:

Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF) & Health

There is a growing consensus that the [electro magnetic field](#) (EMF) emitted by transmission lines pose a genuine health threat. For example, in 2006 the State of Maryland concluded: "*Studies have consistently shown increased risk for childhood leukemia associated with ELF magnetic fields...*" A 2005 study conducted in England and Wales showed that one out of every hundred or so cases of childhood leukemia occurring within 2,000 feet of a high-voltage (≥ 132 kilovolt) transmission line was due to EMF from the line. A number of states now require applicants to show that EMF from proposed transmission lines will not exceed safety thresholds. The following publications provide further detail on EMF and transmission lines.

There are also links to other reports, papers and studies under this section.